

**THE**  
**Notable Hystory of**  
**two faithfull Lovers named**  
**Alfagus and Archelaus,**

**Wherein is declared the true figure of**  
**Amptie and frendshipp. Much**  
**pleasantte and delectable**  
**to the Reader.**

**Translated into English meter**  
**by Edwarde lenynges,**  
**With a Preface or Des-**  
**cription of Frend-**  
**shyppe to the**  
**same.**

**¶ Such as are troubled in Publique affayres;**  
**About common welthes by offyces and cares:**  
**In faithfull frendshipp can neuer abyde,**  
**For so sayth Truly the thinge hath ben tryde.**

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**¶ Edward lenynges to  
the Reader.**



**T**he wyse Philosopher Aristotletelleth  
both saie,

Freindship is a vertue most incompara-  
ble,

And Tully doth his wordes not deny,  
saye,

Sayenge it is a thinge most commendable;

Both fyrm and sure, nothing deceyuable

For freindship with out vertue in no man can remaine

Thus the wyse Philosopher Tully telleth plaine.

**¶** Tully desyneth freindship on this wise also

Sayenge it is none other thing at all

But a perfecte consent of thinges to; to know

Whych as well to God as to men doth befall,

Beneuolence and charite imbraced of great and small

Nothing is moze comodious while men on earth do liue

Then this except sapience which God to man doth giue.

**¶** Then which definition is excelent and true

For in God and all thinges which of God doth come

Nothing of moze estimation doth ensue

Then Loue called in latin *Amor* all and some,

*Amicitia* descending and coming of *Eum*

In english called Freindship which taken a wale

The life of man wyll soone fall in decate.

**¶** No house can stand in quiet peace and rest

No feilde can brynge his fruyte in one season

If hatred and enuie doth dwell both East and Weste,

All men may iudge then perfectly by reason

Finally of man is iudged by discretion

He semeth from the wo:ld to take a way the same,

That from mans life wold freindship haue vndon.

To the Reader.

¶ Both frendshipp then to manerlyfe is so pure  
When all other vertues it both far excell,  
And onely in good men remaines, thys is sure,  
From whose harte and mynde no paine may excell:  
But synnely and sore within them both dwell,  
So that therof none euill may procede  
The cause of thyng which euill is in dede.

¶ Betweene all men that be good can not be Amittie  
Alwayes abyngne without some decente,  
Except they seme both of one qualitie,  
Fourmed all a lyke by natures pretence:  
In maners and study both equally bent,  
And specyally in maners, for that is the thyng  
Whych knytteth the hartes both of one lykinge.

¶ For Craptye and Assabylytie be laudable both  
And qualyties highlye to be had in este macyon,  
So is Seueritye and Placabylytie forsooth  
Magnysyence and Lyberalitye is of the same fasson  
And yet Frugalitie by all wyse mens Prayson  
Whych sheweth a lyfe both moderate and sober,  
Is bygher extolled then any of the other.

¶ Yet wheare these vertues and qualyties bee  
Seperately a sundre amongst persones mange,  
Assembled together by tranquillitie  
May well be perfecte concoorde trulie,  
If frendshipp is there sildome berelye,  
Or that which the one for a vertue imbraceth,  
The other contemninge his minde, it neglecteth.

And there wheare descension of mindes both appere  
By reason can stande no perfecte Amytie,  
Both freindship is a consent entyre,  
Of will and desires in one like quantytie:  
Therfore is sildome seene for a certaintye,  
That frendshipp betweene such parsons should bee,  
Whych in theyr desires can nothinge agree.

¶ Thols

To the Reader.

¶ Those which be liberall of harte and deede  
Withholoyng nothinge from them whom they loue  
Wherby increase of loue doth procede,  
And in them that be constante and will not remoue  
Is neuer mistruste nor suspicion to pzone,  
Ne anye surmysynge of euill repozte  
Can drawe theyr affection from them in any sorte.

¶ And by this thinge is freindship made sure  
Perpetuall for ever both firme and stable,  
But if like studie or learnynge procure  
Theyr mindes in one thinge to be delectable:  
Joyeing to those vertues agreable,  
Freindship much rather doth happen to stande  
By mutuall agreement with faithfull bande.

¶ Nothinge euill or bycious to man  
In faithfull freindship doth happen to bee,  
The first election made of freindes than  
Receneth all the importunce truely,  
Wherfore it wolde be done nothing rashely,  
But with a longe pzoofe and great deliberacion  
Deseruyng perfectly his forimer trade and sathyon.

¶ For oft times by fortune it comith to passe  
A man now in welthe and great prosperitie,  
Is brought in a momēt much worse then he was  
Standinge in peryll and great extremyte:  
Freindshipp oft times then faileth verely  
As Doyces swete sentence to vs both declare  
Hereafter folowynge with wordes good and sayre.

¶ Whylste fortune thee sauezeth, freindes thou hast plenty  
The time being troublous thou art alone,  
And Caluers haunt houses made whyte and dayntie  
To the ruinous Towers almost cometh none:  
Of Emotes innumerable, vnneth thou findest one  
In emptie barnes where sayleth substance,  
Happeneth no freinde in whom is assurance.



To the Reader.

¶ But if amonge manie one chuse to be found  
In all cares of fortune hys freyndshyp to holde,  
The prayse of hys name shall highly rebounde  
And is moze of valew then syluer or golde,  
Or any comodytie that els can be tolde,  
Of kyndred and blood none is so comendable  
As one perfecte freynde in nothyng deceguable.

¶ For Tully saith from kyndred and lyne  
Beneuolence may soone be taken awaye,  
But freyndshyp whych neuer at naught doth repine  
Can neuer be leuened by night nor by daye:  
So though beneuolence in kyndred doth staye,  
Yet the name of kyndred doth alwayes stand still  
But take it from freyndshyp and cleane it doth spyll.

¶ I am not able of freyndshyp to shewe  
A true defynycyon in euery thinge,  
Though all a whole yere my wyt I bestowe  
In such like sentences still wytyng,  
With manie auncient Hystories searchyng  
Wherin I shulde fynde such stoor to indyte  
That in a large booke I scarce coulde them wyte.

¶ But gentle Reader I praie you haue patience  
In this ma labour not woorthy of praisse,  
Acceptinge well my mynde and dilygence,  
Occypenge my pen thus on many idle daies:  
Wherby some profit doth come manie waies,  
For vnto all men it showeth the vertue  
Of amytie and freyndshyp perfecte and true.

¶ Many yonge wyts desyre for to read  
Hystories olde, in Mecter delectable,  
Of dyuers good knyghtes and such as be dead,  
Leauyng behynde them a fame much commendable,  
Yet is the readyng therof nothyng profitable,  
But in this small treatise a man maie beholde,  
How freyndshyp is better then syluer or golde.

¶ The

To the Reader.

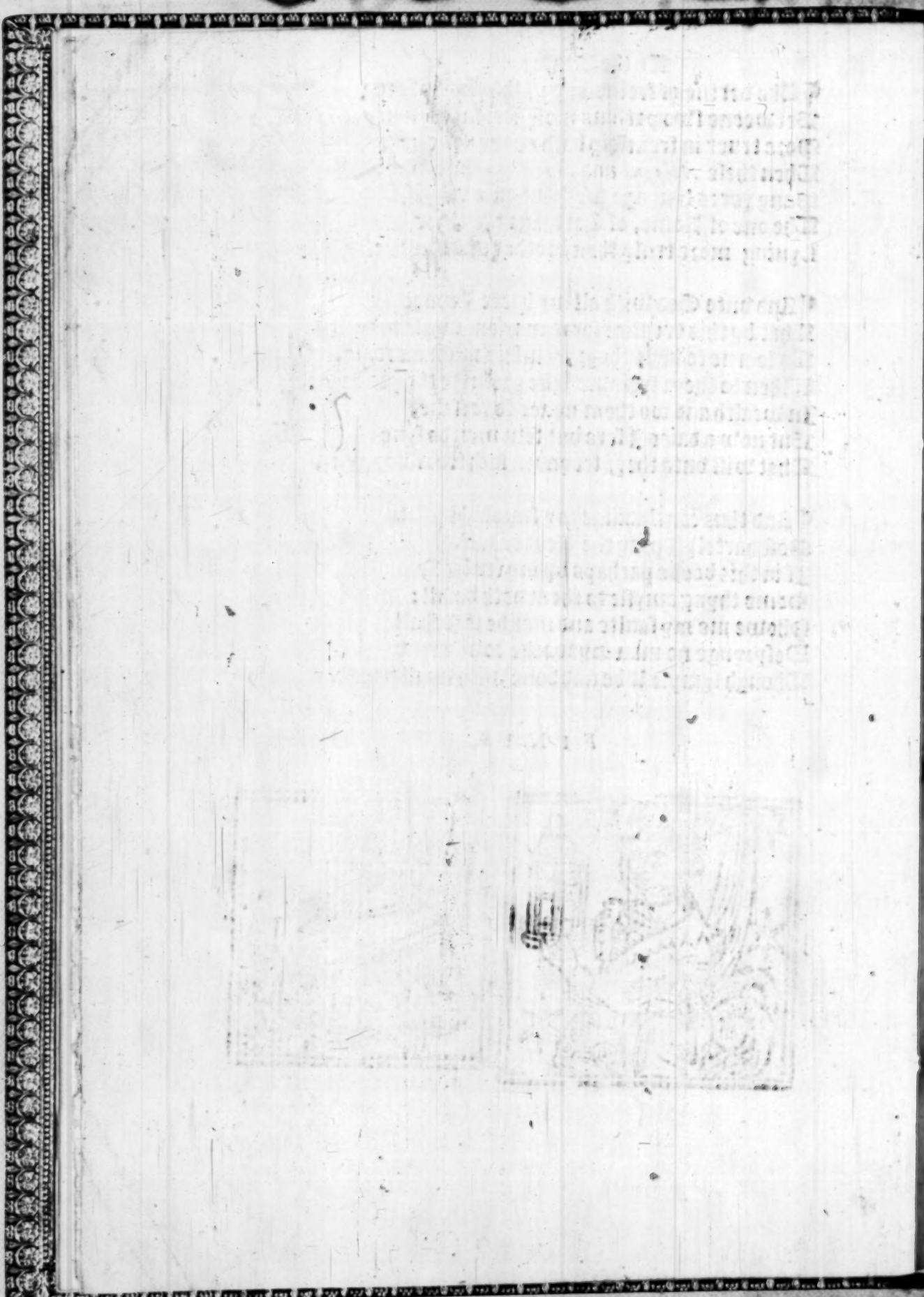
The vertue of freindshipp in this shalbe scene  
Betweene two parsons most woꝛthy of fame,  
More truer in freinship hath neuer none bene  
Then these *Alfagus* and *Archelaus* by name :  
Many yeres luyngge wythout anie blame,  
The one of Rome, of Carthage the other  
Luyngge more truly then brother and brother.

And vnto God with all my harte I praye  
That by this treatice some may ensample take  
To learne to kepe theyꝝ freinship night and daie,  
When to theyꝝ freindes lyke promyse they do make :  
In wealth and wo them neuer to forsake,  
But now a daies I fere but few men do lye  
That will vnto theyꝝ freyndes such freinshipp geue.

And thus concludinge my simple Preface  
Most hartely I pray the Readers all,  
If in this booke parhaps by my trespasse  
Some thyng amysse to them doth befall :  
Showe me my faulte and mende it I shall  
Desyꝝnge no man my woꝛke to disdayne  
Though simple it be and done with small payne.

F I N I S.







**T**he famous hystory of Alfagus  
and Archelaus. Wherin is declar-  
ed the true fygure of Imp-  
tye and freindshyp.

Cap. i.

¶



A Rome sumtyme a knyghte  
dyd dwell,  
Both noble, wise and good.  
Hys stocke of auntyente Ro-  
maynes were,  
And not of Rascall blood:

Appodus hyghte thys noble man  
for so mein dyd hym call,  
Beloued he was of all folkes in  
the Cyttye, great and small.

A Ladye had thys noble knyghte  
of worthy stocke and fame,  
Betweene whom God a sonne dyd sende  
Alfagus was hys name:  
Acomely Chylde and saye he was  
as any man myght see,  
In learnyng apte to every thyng  
whych taught to hym myght bee.

A This knight therfore when as his sonne  
to latwefull yeres ded growe,  
He thought how he by vertuous trade  
myght make hym wysdome knowe:

B.i.

But

The Hystorye of

But at the laste by musynge longe  
he vnderstood right well,  
Of Carthage that noble place  
much praise he harde men tell.

How that was cheefe and fountayne of  
all wysdome and all grace,  
Next vnto God all prudence came  
and doctrine from that place:  
And noble men from far aboute  
they? Chyldren thether sent,  
And Lypodus this knight therfore  
euen of the same intent.

His sonne Alsagus brought forth with  
to Carthage, that hee,  
Myght lerne good letters and also  
a Scholler there to bee:  
And hosted him with one who was  
an auncient man and wise,  
A Senatour of the Citty who  
good counsell dyd deuise.

Of Carthage that noble place  
and Citty of great fame,  
The cheifest ruler then was hee  
and Olympus was his name:  
Thys Olympus had a sonne also  
whom Archelaus men dyd call,  
In every parte both hande and face  
like Alsagus was hee all.

They?

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**T**heyr age was equall both as one  
agreeinge iust and ryght,  
Theyr faces so proportioned both  
a lyke in all mēns sight:  
That no man coulde deserue the one  
and say this is the other,  
They were not knowē but by their names  
of father nor of mother.

**A**nd as these two yonge gentlemen  
agreid lyke in lyminē,  
Alfagus Archelaus vnto  
and Archelaus to him:  
So in shorte space acquaintaunce grewe  
the one so to the other,  
That inwarde lone oprest theyr hartes  
and eche one called brother.

**T**heyr willes and Appetites both in one  
so God had conglated,  
That neuer since the worlde began  
like them was none created:  
At one time they together went  
to study and to learnynge,  
At one time they at meales also  
tooke both a lyke refreshynge.

**T**hey both delpted in one kynde  
of doctryne, and therby  
They profyted and were therewith  
both learned equally,



The Hystorye of

And to conclude, together they  
with learynge so increased,  
That in shorte tyme to them myght be  
in Carthage none compared.

¶ At length decessit Olympus (which was)  
Archelaus father dere,  
for whom Alfagus as well as hee  
dyd mourne with heauy chere  
But then Archelaus after that  
his father was decessed,  
To all men knowen he was with goodys  
and ryches much increased.

¶ Wherefore to hym was profered  
ryche mayrges many a won,  
With maydens fayre and bryght, but hee  
set not hys minde thereon:  
And he then beinge ryche of pereg  
of parsonage with all,  
Bryght well he set in every hymne  
a comely man and tall.

¶ Wherefore his freindes and kynsmen all  
exhorted hym that hee,  
After this counsaile set his mynde  
to wed some fayre Lady:  
To the intente his lynage hee  
myght so increase ther by,  
But this yonge man his hart had set  
so on Philosophy.

And

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**A**nd on his freind Alfagus to  
his lone he set so sure,  
That if he shuld mary he thought  
it colde not still endure,  
But that he shuld leane of from one  
and cleane another to,  
Wherfore longe tyme he did delaye  
the thinge with much a do.

**A**nd would not consent to theyr mynde  
for ought that they colde saye,  
How be it, still they woulde not rest  
to moue hym daye by daye,  
To mary one that myght hym please  
and gett some Childe her by,  
Which myght inherit and haue his lande  
when he shuld chaunce to dye.

**S**o at the last he graunted, because  
hys freindes on hym so sore,  
Euen by importunat callinge on  
still dayly more and more,  
And partly by the aduice and mynde  
of Alfagus hys freind dere,  
And by dysyre of many mo  
he dyew theyr purpouse nere.

**C**onsentyng for to mary one  
in whom he myght delpght,  
And in all thinges vnto hys mynde  
ryght pleasaunt in hys syghts

B.iii.

With

The Hyffoie of  
With whych wordes all hys freindes & kyn  
was wondrous glad in hart,  
And busily for hym a none  
eche one dyd shewe hys part.

¶ And sought to heare they myght fynde a  
for him right faire and good, (mayde  
Of like yeres vnto hym, and of  
some worthy house and blood,  
So longe they sought that at the last,  
a mayde they dyd espye,  
Of parsonage, maners, and in age  
in exccient betwixe.

¶ A comely damsell and a tall  
in equall stature pyght,  
With eres as graye as glas, and skynne  
most lyke to snowe was whyte :  
Of equal yeres shee was to him  
in vertuous maners taught,  
Of noble blood full riche also  
no better myght be sought.

¶ Thys Ladye thought they good, for such  
a gentleman of kynde,  
They thought her apte for hym, and hee  
in her myght please hys mynde :  
When Archelaus freyndes and eke  
the maydens freindes also,  
Had talked all therynnde, and when  
eche one theryn wyls dyd knowe.

And



Alfagus and Archelaus.

**A**nd on the couenauntes were agreed  
how the maryage should bee,  
They gave Archelaus counsaile that  
the mayden he should see:  
And ofte repayze to her, so that  
he myght ryght well at ease,  
Knowe with his hart if that she wyth  
her beauntie might hym please.

**A**rchelaus goeth to see his Ladie,  
Who pleaseth him right well. He  
carieth Alfagus with him to see her,  
who is so taken in her loue that hee,  
lyeth sicke with intollera-  
ble paine. Cap. ii.

**A**fter the counsaile of his freindes  
Archelaus did agree,  
And went without delaye anone,  
hys Ladye for to see:  
Who in all partes hee found to bee  
so pleasaunt to hys mynde,  
That if hee shoulde seeke all the world  
none better coulde hee finde.

**N**ow to his hartes desyre hee thoughte,  
myght be founde one so meete,  
Wherfore anone with lounge wordes  
to her hee spake full sweete:

And

The Hyſtoꝛye of

And ſayde ſayze Lady is your mynde  
to haue me for your make,  
And can you fynde within your hart  
all other to forſake.

CSaue onely I, and cleaue to mee  
how ſay you Lady bryghte  
Shee aunſwered hym, (& ſayd) for ſooth  
all that is in my might,  
I am content to do your mynde  
my hartes deſyre is ſo,  
And thus when they had talked longe  
and eche theyꝝ loue dyd know.

CArchelaus dyd returne agayne  
to Alſagus hys freinde,  
No loue of Lady in the worlde  
myght take hym from hys mynde:  
yet often tymes when to ſtudy they  
together both dyd go,  
Many times Archelaus when  
Alſagus dyd not know.

CStale ſecretly away, and to  
hys Lady did reſorte,  
That he with her in paſſyme good  
myght make ſome pleaſaunt ſport:  
And not withſtandynge the great loue  
whych to hys freynd he bare,  
yet ofte tymes to hys Lady he  
on this wyſe dyd repayre.

CBut

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**B**ut at the laste when waimfastnes  
surmounted in his brest,  
Wpthin his harte he coude not hane  
at no tyme quiet rest,  
Untill hys secret iourneys toere  
vnto Alfagus tolde,  
Wherfoze anone these wordes hee spake  
and said with courage bolde.

**D**ere freinde Alfagus so it is  
my freindes on mee did lye,  
As you do knowe ryght well ynough  
to wed some fayre Ladie:  
That so I myght increse the stocke  
of mee and of my father,  
Howe be it (god dooth knowe) with you  
to hyde yet had I rather.

**W**hat then: it is so nowe that I,  
haue chosen a Ladye bryght,  
Who to my harte in all thynges is  
ryght pleasaunt in my sight:  
And ofte tymes haue I stolne awaye,  
from you vnknotone till nowe,  
When as wee were at study both  
and ye wyl nothyng home.

**T**o goo and see her tohom I loue  
Wee doth mee so delyghte,  
For wylth her beaultie my tohole harte  
is fyrred dape and nyght:

C.i.

To



**The Historie of**  
To morowe therfore will I go  
about this tyme and tyde,  
And you with mee shall go that theare  
to gether wee maye abyde.

**A**n houre or twayne and passe the tyme  
with some solace and playe,  
Where as you maye beholde and see  
my Ladye frewe and gape:  
Alfagus answered hym and sayd  
I am ryght well content,  
To go with you my freind I thinke  
the tyme no better spent.

**A**nd sayne I would beholde the mayd  
you prayse so much to me,  
For since you spake fyrst of her I  
haue longed her to see:  
Thus when they talked had awhyle  
the nyght on them did drawe,  
Wherefore to rest they went anon  
when best they tyme they sawe.

**T**hus when the darknes had his course,  
and the beames so bryght,  
The restles Sonne I meane did shewe  
vpon the yearth some lyght:  
The mornyng sonne, w<sup>th</sup> shynynge beames  
all landes hath ouer spred,  
And from the skyes the droppynge Wade,  
of nyght awaye was fled.

Alfagus

**Alfagus and Archelaus.**

**A**lfagus rose, and longed to see  
the mayden bryght of hewe,  
Tryse by Archelaus he sayde  
that I maye go with you:  
To see her whom you prayesed so  
my harte is very fayne,  
Euen now anon Archelaus sayde  
wee will go thether both twayne.

**W**here with he rose and so they bothe  
anon to gether did go,  
But how they sped, if you will heare  
I will unto you sho:  
Forth goeth these two young gentlemen  
and when one houre was spent,  
They came wheras the mayd dyd dwell  
and into the house they went.

**W**ho of the Damsell was anon  
receued ioyfullye,  
But as soone as Alfagus had  
bypon her set his eye:  
Beholdynge her most comely face  
with parsonage demure,  
Adorned all in betwille, and  
In expectable pure.

**H**er lippes as red as anye Rose  
nothing there was awys,  
With sober countenance mydd all  
with maydenly shamesfastnes:

**C.ii.**

**Her**

The Viftozpe of  
Her faulke fo sweete and pleafant was  
foz Alfagus to beholde.  
That with the fyght of her anone  
hys fpytes were very colde.

Thys harte was perfed thozow cut  
blynde Cypys Darte with all,  
And weryt whych wound foz deadly fmart,  
almost on founde did fall:  
So brement and fo ferce his payne  
increafed moze and moze,  
Wryt ftill beholdynge of that mayde,  
whych flood hys eyes before.

That nerther the great ftudye of  
Phylofophy, nor yet  
The remembraunce of his moft dere freinde,  
Archelaus any whyt:  
Could once wrythdrawe that vnkynde loue  
out of his harte and breste,  
But moze and moze his payne dyd growe  
not knowynge what waye to ref.

But that of force hee muft needes loue  
and that inordynately,  
That Lady whych Archelaus his freinde  
had cholen to marry:  
All be it wryth incredyble paynes  
he kept hys thoughtes vnkowne,  
Untyll they both returned were  
and to their lodgynges gone.

The



Alfagus and Archelaus.

**T**he miferable Alfagus then  
wpyth wandrenge hym selfe a spde,  
As though in secret studie hee  
intended to abyde:  
All tormented in sorowe and care  
wpyth loue oppressed sore,  
Upon his bed hee layed him downe  
tormented more and more.

**R**ebukynge there him selfe of mooste  
vnynde and spytfull hate,  
For with the syght of that fayre mayde  
whych hee had seene of late:  
Hee had conspyred such great euill  
agaynst his freinde so dere,  
Who had hym loued so wonderous well  
in faythfulnes many a yere.

**A**las what euill tyme (quoth hee)  
was it when I was borne,  
Alas for comynge to thys place  
why had I not forsworne:  
Alas my father, wherfore brought  
you mee here to thys place:  
Why dyd you not keepe mee at home  
out of thys wretched case.

**A**las that euer I dyd acquaint  
my selfe wpyth one so true,  
As you my freind Archelaus are  
but I agayne to you,

C.iii.

Poste

**The Hystorie of**  
**Most like a brut the beast unkynde**  
**from Nature gone awyre.**  
**And haue deserued of your part,**  
**great hatred to employe.**

**A**nd w<sup>th</sup> those wordes deepe sighes & soze,  
out from his harte hee sente,  
**T**hat euer hee came to Athenes  
oft tymes hee dyd repent:  
**T**hus still in dolour and in care  
he torbled and he toste,  
**T**hat lytle lacked it of his hart  
to be in peces brast.

**B**ut vnto no man durst he once  
dysclose his secret soze,  
**S**o that at length most greuous paines  
increased more and more:  
**A**nd forced him would hee or not  
still on his bed to lye,  
**R**eceauyng nought wherwith he myght  
haue him sustayned bye,

**N**o sleape at all nor rest hee tooke  
no sustinaunce nor foode,  
**H**e would receaue wherwith hee might  
haue done his bodye good:  
**T**hat hee so feble was and fapnt  
so weake of lywine w<sup>th</sup> all,  
**T**hat in his legges, his bodye to beare  
no strengthe there was at all.

**Archelaus**

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**A**rchelaus goeth to see Alfagus,  
who lyeth sicke for loue: to whome  
Alfagus confesseth all the cause of his  
sycknes, greatly repen-  
nyng hym selfe of  
vniynnes.

Cap. iii.

**A**rchelaus was tolde a non  
parte of Alfagus care,  
How he full sicke to bed was gone  
and almost in dyspayre;  
With which wordes he was sore abash'd  
and went forthwith to see,  
How his deere freinde Alfagus dyd,  
and what his payne myght bee.

**B**ut when he did approach the place  
to here as Alfagus laye,  
Beholdynge there his most deere freinde  
in such payne full arayd:  
The red Rose colour in his face  
which was wont to appeere,  
All tourned into fallow pale  
with wan and heauye cheere.

**H**is red lippes pale and almost blacke  
his eye lidds suncke full low,  
That scarce beholpyng in his face  
he coulde his village know.

He



The Hystorie of

He myght from weppng scarce refrayne  
the teares by force out braste,  
But then remembryng hym agayne  
refrained at the laste.

¶ Feare leaste he thoughte suche sorowfull  
might most his freind annoy. (sight  
Wherefore hee turned backe agayne  
hys countenance vnto ioy:  
Comfortyng hys dere freind in all  
that ever hee myght do,  
Despyng hym and sayd howe came,  
thys great dysseale in you.

¶ And why haue you byn so unkynde  
not shewyng mee att all,  
Of this dysseale which vnto you,  
of late tyme dyd befall:  
But thus unkyndly and unwise  
to seeke your owne decaye,  
When as I myght by knowyng therof  
haue sought some helpe and waye.

¶ If any thyng for syluer or golde  
to helpe you myght be bought,  
I woulde not staye my selfe till all  
thys regyon I had sought:  
And though that it shoulde coste mee all  
the substance I coulde make,  
yet woulde I thynke it well bestowed  
to spende it for your sake.

¶ Wyth

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**W**ith which wordes then the mortall  
renued more and more, (sighes  
Within Alfagus harte, and he  
began to weepe full soze:  
So that abundauntlie the teares  
Downe from his eyes did fall,  
And many a sorowfull spghe hee sent  
out from, his harte with all.

**T**he which when Archelaus saw  
he coude no more forbear,  
But was resolved to teares a non  
his harte all fyrred in care:  
And sayd Alfagus most dere friend  
Do not your mynde delaye,  
But shewe me all and euery Deale  
most hartely I you pray.

**A**las whye are you so bnhynde  
that you will not disclose,  
your secret sicknes vnto mee  
when as I did suppose:  
you would not haue kept backe from mee  
no secreete thng at all,  
for I woulde haue hid nought from you  
what soeuer myght befall.

**T**herfore I pray you let me know  
what greuous payne you haue,  
That I may seeke some helpe with haste  
you from the death to saue:

The Wittowye of

For nothyng is to me so dere  
nor precious in my sight  
But for your sake hee wyl anon  
Depart with it forth ryght.

Although myne owne lyfe I should lose  
It would I not delay,  
But runne and go all that I myght  
for your helpe nyght and day:  
The wyche wordes when Alsaug harde  
and sawe the mone and greefe,  
Which his deere friende Archelaus made  
to seeke for his releefe.

All blyssyng and in shamefast wyse  
by force as then contrayned,  
Unto his friend his tale he tolde  
and in this wyse complained  
My most deere friend and faithfull mate  
leare of your faithfull upnde,  
Call backe agayne the wordes you spake  
some helpe for mee to fynde.

And rather slaye mee where I lye  
drawe out your knyfe therfore,  
Dyspatch my dayes that I may see  
the heyghe of heauen no more:  
Most myserable wretch and Traytoz sales  
to you my felende am I,  
And of all men vppon the Earth,  
most worthy for to dye.



Alfagus and Archelaus.

**E**f for lyke as god by hys great powere  
hath formed vs as one,  
All lyke in euery forme and part,  
for men to looke vppon:  
So hath he made our myndes agree  
in euery thyng alke,  
for looke what one of vs would haue  
the other thereto doth seeke.

**O**ur myndes and apetytes are as one  
they dyffer nought at all,  
I thinke that neuer wth no men  
lyke friendshippe dyd befall:  
And now so soone (alas I say)  
so soone this loue is gone,  
Good friendshippe is excluded and  
of reason there is none.

**N**o doctryne doth anayle, nor man  
in wof dome may not truste,  
Nor no fydelitye in a friende  
in this case maye be iuste:  
yea Archelaus the great truste  
Whych pou on me dyd laye,  
Hath caused me for to conspye  
agaynst you nowe this daye.

**(**Alas agaynst you my deere friend)  
to do this thyng vnepyght,  
How haue I ben intangled wth  
some foule enuyous spryght:

The Pistoys of

What thyng was in your mynde alas  
when trysdome was awoye,  
Why tolde you mee of that fayre mayde  
which is so farr the and gay.

¶ And you haue chosen her to wyse  
(alas) why did you so  
Why had you not left me at home  
but let me wyth you goe  
(Alas I saye) where was your wyse  
reueinbyng not at all,  
The great fragilitie of our loue  
and natures bonde wyth all.

¶ What neede you haue regarde of me  
what pleasure you dyd fynde,  
In the beholdyng of her whome  
you loued in your mynde:  
Why would you haue me se her to whom  
your selfe could not beholde,  
But with the beutie of her face  
your loue to her had tolde.

¶ Your mynde was fyred and your harte  
was rauyshed her to see,  
And yet so that in all this thyng  
you had no mynde of mee:  
(Alas why dyd you so forget  
and coulde not thynke bypon  
That both our wills and apetytes  
hath byn alwayes as one.

Alagus and Archelaus.

**F**or alwayes that which in your eyes  
was pleasaunt for to see,  
Hath alwaye ben in every parte  
in lyke sorte vnto mee:  
What neede more wordes Archelaus for  
your truste in me I saye,  
Hath caused me with vnkynnd loue  
to be intrapt this daye.

**T**he raynes and pleasaunt beames most  
ensuyng from her eyne, (saye  
Whom you haue chosen for to loue  
hath pearst thys hart of mine:  
yea the remembraunce of her and  
her vertues manyfold,  
Hath strouken me with a deadly wound  
and made my hart full colde.

**S**o that I do desyre nought els  
but lyke an vnkynnd wretche,  
I myght departe out of this lyfe  
thys myserye to dispatche:  
As one not worthy to haue lyfe  
and felowshyp wth you,  
My most deere frende which alway hath  
ben vnto me so true.

**B**ut I haue ben to you vnkynnde  
(alas) why should I lyue  
And wth those wordes out from his harte  
full heauye syghes dyd geue:

D.iii.

Desolued



The Hystorye of  
Desolued all with teares great store  
which from his eyes did runne,  
Concluding these his wordes in care  
as he had then begunne.

¶ Archelaus accuseth hym selfe of  
follye. He renounceth hys tytill that  
he hath in the Lady to Alfagus  
and sheweth him the way howe  
hee shall haue her to hys  
wyfe, vnwares to  
all his friendes.  
Cap. liii.

¶ When Alfagus made an ende  
and had confessed all,  
How in the sight of y<sup>e</sup> faire mayd  
what payne dyd hym befall:  
Hys deere friend Archelaus then  
as nothyng discontente,  
For yet asygned at the thyng  
in which his friende was be nte.

¶ But with a mery countenance,  
Alfagus did embrace,  
He kyssed hym and on this wyse  
his wordes forthwith did place:  
Why friende Alfagus at your harte  
is this same all the greener  
And had you thought within your harte  
there could be no reliefe.

Blas

Alagus and Archelans.

**A**las whyer were you so bknnde  
that ye would not declare,  
The cause of thys your payne to me  
but in your harte it barre:  
Alas why keepe you of so long  
and would not let me kno,  
Why were you so bknnde to keepe  
your secret mynd mee fro.

**I** do confesse my folly here  
wherein I am attaynte,  
you haue disclosed my fond wpt  
to me in your complaynt:  
For the wyng vnto you the mayde  
wom I chose to my wyfe,  
I dyd remember nothyng in  
the nature of our lyfe.

**F**or how our myndes and apetytes  
in all thynges doth agree,  
For yet the byrtie of our hartes,  
remembred was of mee:  
Wherefore it is no man but I  
which hath done all this ill,  
Surelye I can not well excuse  
my selfe by reasons skyll.

**F**or who of right can proue that you  
haue trespassed at all,  
When wpyth the mutable darte of loue  
your harte was strooke wpyth all:  
why

2

The Hystorye of  
Why thynke you I am such a foole  
which can not vnderstande,  
The myghtye stroke of Venus power  
whom loue doth take in hande.

For where shee looth for to shew  
the vpolent counse of care,  
To presse the harte oportunate  
with panges shee doth not spare:  
Haue not you well ressted when  
to death you are nere brought:  
And thus in tormentes for to stae,  
that apetyte you haue sought.

What more importunate loue of you  
may I requyre then,  
More saythfull loue in all the worlde  
hath neuer ben of men:  
And should I seeke for to expell  
that thyng which god hath wrought  
Sett she, predestinate was to you  
bifore I of her thought.

If I should so thynke of this thyng  
my wyt were spent in bayne,  
What were my studie all my lyfe  
but foolyshe and no gayne:  
Should I seeke for the prudent Arte  
Philosophye to knowe,  
Nay, nay, Alas in my harte  
let neuer god do so.

But



Alfagus and Archelans.

**B**ut surely I confesse in deede  
to loue the mayde as well,  
As any man possible may  
which wpsdomes arte can tell:  
And tooke moze pleasure in my harte  
her beutye to beholde,  
Then in my landes my father left  
my spiner or my goulde.

**T**he which you know doth much abound  
in ballue for to be,  
yet at my harte they are not halfe  
so pleasaunt vnto me:  
But now I know within your hart  
her loue surmounteth moze,  
Then fye tymes it hath done in me  
of all the tyme before.

**P**ea without measure in your harte  
I know the darte dothringe  
Of ragyng loue but should I thinke  
that were wanton lusing:  
Or suddayne apetyte of your mynde  
delighting in solace,  
Haue I not knowen the manner of  
your lyfe in euery place.

**H**ow you were honest good and wys  
in euery kynde of waye,  
Wayne dalliaunce & fond toyes brynerte  
your bse was not to playe:

C. i.

Shall

**The Historie of**

**Shall I imagin then in you,  
inallig, discit oz quple,  
Syth you and I haue fostered ben  
together of longe whyle.**

**Euen from our chyldhood vntyll now  
yet could I neuer see,  
But that you haue byn gentle sweete  
and frendely vnto mee:  
Betweene vs twayne was neuer stryfe  
synce one the other knewe,  
But still agreed in euery parte  
to lye lyke brether in trewe.**

**Nay godforbid that noble bande  
of frendshippe which hath ben,  
Alfagus and Archelaus harte  
enclused all within:  
To be suspected anye deale  
of hatred and dyspyte,  
Or any fantasie of the mynde  
would presse my head vntyght.**

**Wherby the honorable loue which is  
betweene vs all and some,  
Myght hyndred bee in anye parte  
the mountenaunce of a crome:  
Nay, nay, Alfagus it is so  
as I before haue sayde,  
For by selesiall power deupne  
you poynted were that mayde.**

**God**

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**G**od had apoynted her to you  
when fyrste he gaue her lyfe,  
That only she should be your loue  
your Ladye and your wyfe:  
For such a feruent loue as this  
oppresseth not the harte,  
Of anye man vertuous and wyse  
wyth suche an earnestte smarte.

**B**ut by a prouydence deuyn  
to heare at if I should seeke,  
To make resistance anye deale  
to haue the thyng I leeke:  
I should not onely be vniuste  
agaynst my friend most trewe,  
Withholdinge that thyng which of ryght  
belongeth vnto you.

**B**ut also be repugnaunte frome,  
goddes highe Determy nation,  
Aduaunsyng by my harte therein  
to make a confutation:  
Which thyng shall not be founde in me  
by helpe of god with all,  
Therefore Alfagus my deare freinde  
Dysmay you not at all.

**O**f this the chaunce of loue now fyrste  
withyn your harte to stande,  
But ioyouslye do now receaue  
the yoke of louers bande:

C.ii.

For



The Visioyns of

For I am nothyng discontente  
wyth this my sudden chaunce,  
But merueylously with seruent ioy  
my hart it doth aduance.

¶ Syth that it is my chaunce for you  
a Ladye for to sonde,  
Which is so greable to your harte,  
and pleasaunt in your mynde:  
Wyth whom you may hereafter lyue  
in great felicitie,  
Receaynyng fruyt by Gods hygh power  
your chyldren for to be.

¶ Which may ampleste, and increase  
great honour to your name,  
And all your lynage wyll crye  
when they shall see the same:  
Wherefore I will renounce to you  
my tyle and my ryght,  
And clearly all that I shall haue,  
wyth that saye mayde so vyght.

¶ I gyue it clearly vnto you  
as it is geuen to me,  
For euer more whyle lyfe doth last  
your Ladye for to be:  
Call to your prestynate courage agayne  
washe cleane your byllage wyte  
Amende your eyes forloyme with teares  
by weepynge all this nyght.

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**A**bandon all your beaue cheere  
the day appeareth nye,  
Wherch you do knowe I dyd apoynt  
the mayd for to marrye:  
Let vs consult betwix thetfore  
how we may bring about,  
That you myght wylsele map attayne  
your purpose thowow out.

**A**nd all your hole desires so  
for to atchpye wryth ioye,  
Take heede therfore vnto my wordes  
and marke well what I saye:  
you knowe right well that we are bothe  
so lyke in euerye place,  
Disproportioned all in euerye lymme  
both bodye, head, and face.

**O**ur speech & countenaunce doth agree  
so lyke in euerye waye,  
That if we were apparrelled both  
alyke in one aray:  
And both apart for to be seene  
yet few men could then knowe,  
Whych of vs were the other and  
vnto his fellow how.

**A**lso you do remember well  
the custome of this land,  
That not withstanding all these wordes  
by ioyoyng hand in hand:

E.iii.

The

The Wyfsoye of  
The marryage not confirmed is  
all boollie iust and ryght,  
Untyll in Chamber they be come  
together both at nyght:

¶ And that the husband hath put on  
his wyues finger a Ringe,  
And also doth vnlose therewith  
the knot of her girdlynge:  
Then is the marryage fullie knyt  
and they be man and wyle,  
To liue so longe in one accorde  
as God shall glue them lyfe.

¶ Therfore will I my selfe be theare  
before my friendes in place,  
Performyng all the byrdemans parte  
in every poynt and case:  
And you I wyll in secreteat hyde  
where none shall you espye,  
Untyll at nyght when that to bedde  
eche man him selfe doth hye.

¶ And then you shall conuaye your selfe  
in the most secretest wyle,  
In to the Chamber of the mayde  
as I shall best deupse:  
And nothyng shall the mayde espye  
or thynke of you a mis,  
Because your rapiment vnto myne  
so lyke in all thynges is.

your



Alfagus and Archelaus.

**C**your parsonage also, in all popntes  
will seeme vnto her sight,  
So lyke to myne that by no meanes  
Wee can espie the sleight:  
And worstlye geat you to the bed  
Delay not longe the thyng,  
And on her synger strayght wayes then  
put on your owne golde ryng.

**H**er Gyrdle of bircynitie  
vndoe without delaye,  
Fulfyll your pleasure all the nyght  
as louers lyte to playe:  
Comforte your selfe Alfagus therfore  
my louing friend moste deare,  
With good refection and solace  
reloue your heauye cheate.

**T**hat this cullour wan and pale  
your cheekes so leane and thinne,  
Be not the cause to let the thyng  
whych easely you may winne:  
I knowe ryght well within my mynde  
that when this thyng is done,  
And that you do enioy the mayde  
by us as now begonne.

**I** shall deryded bee of all  
the foalke that shall it knowe,  
And all my kynted wyth dyspyte  
they? Irefull hate wyll now:

The Hyſtoꝛye of  
In ſeekyng all the meanes they can  
me to expulſe and dꝛyue,  
Out of this Cytie in ſhort tyme  
a bannyſhed lyfe to lyue.

¶ And thynke me to be ſuche a one  
as hath done great out rage,  
By geuyng of a great reproche  
vnto my parentage:  
But god ſhall worke his will therein,  
my mynde is fully bente,  
To do the thyng that I haue ſayde  
is all my whole intent.

¶ I force not for the furious rage  
of anye ſpꝛtefull foe,  
Ne yet what payne I do abyde  
by fortunes frownyng blow:  
So that you my friend Archelaus  
may lyue in fortunes grace,  
And haue ſelyctie to increace  
your honour with ſolace.

¶ Archelaus marrieth the Ladye  
for Alfagus. Alfagus cōfirmeth  
in matrimonye. and lyeth with her all  
the night, Archelaus deſireth al  
his frendes to geue eare to  
the Dꝛacion which *Alfa*  
*gus* would make.  
Cappit. b.

¶ Wꝛth

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**W**yth this Alfagus turnde him selfe  
as one awake from sleepe,  
And thought hee had but seene a  
more cares on him to heape: (Dreame  
And doubtyng whether he had harde  
Archelaus speake or no,  
Or seene a vision in his mynde  
deuysed to be so.

**A**s he before had harde his friende  
with frendly wordes declare,  
But lookyng by with stedfaste eyes  
ryght well perceaued thare:  
Hys friende Archelaus standyng by,  
with teares lamentyng styll,  
Lest fortune by her fatall wheele  
hys hole deuyce should spyll.

**T**he wofull Alfagus set hym by  
not knowyng what to saye,  
But comfortyng his most dere friende  
in all that euer he maye:  
Thankyng hym then for his kynde wordes  
which were incomperable,  
Refusyng it sayth that he sayd  
I am so varyable.

**M**ore better were it that there shoulde  
a hondred such as I,  
Lyke vnkynde wretches to be slayne  
or some euill death to dye:

f.i.

Then



The Hystorye of  
Then that so noble a man as you  
Should sustayne any ill.  
Or that reproche or damage should  
come anye wayes you till.

But then Archelans in his armes  
his freind Alfagus tooke,  
Comfortyng hym all that he myght  
with many a merpe looke:  
And therewithall dyd sweare and eke  
protest as not dysmayd,  
That with glad harte al things would bee  
as he before had sayd.

He sweetlye kyssed him also  
and sayd my friend most dere,  
All thynges shalbe accomplyshd well  
therfore be of good chere:  
Alfagus then perceauyng that  
all thynges were fyne and sure  
And that no fayned friendshipp did  
his saythfull friend alure.

He set him by wpyth ioyfull harte  
ryght in his bed as he,  
Had felt before no payne at all,  
but wakd from sleepe to be:  
The quicke blood in his byllage then  
began for to restore,  
Suche coloure as by nature he  
receaued had before.

And

**Alfagus and Archelaus.**

**A**nd after hee had well sustayned  
wyth some good dzyne and meate,  
His feeble bodye which before  
had no desyre to eate,  
In some dayes was brought agayne  
vnto his woonted state,  
Lyke to Archelaus in all thynges  
his faythfull freinde and mate.

**T**he daye of maryage did approche  
ech one wth busye care,  
Did seeke for such thynges as should neede  
the weddyng to prepare,  
Archelaus was deuysing still  
the best and surest way,  
How he his friend Alfagus myght  
is to his rowme conuaye.

**N**ow thought he this, now thought hee  
as fancie did him gyde, (that  
At length he found the secrettest feat,  
that els he myght proude;  
And shewed Alfagus all the thyng  
in what place hee should stonde,  
Take heede therfore (quoth he) that you  
be redde at my hande.

**A**t nyght when wee to bed shall go  
within the chamber dore,  
Behinde the cloth there is a hole  
where you may be full sure:

f. ii.

**And**

The Wyllowe of

And before wee to bed waste come  
I will connape you there,  
So that when I shall come and bynge  
with me the mayde so fayre.

¶ You shall come forth behynde my backe  
and I will lye awoake,  
So no man shall espie the sleight  
because that you are ake:  
Is like to myne in every thyng  
your byllage eke also,  
Resembleth myne so that the mayde  
of this can nothyng knowe.

¶ Be of good cheere Archelaus sayd  
my frende Alisauus now,  
Leave all thyng in all other thynges  
and thynke on nought but how:  
you may accomplishe your desyre  
be of good cheere therefore,  
The daye is come that now from death  
to lyfe I must restore.

¶ The day was come and then anon  
the Lauee frende and gave,  
Archelaus tooke and to the churche  
her lead without delay:  
Accompanyed with his frendes and hers  
right honorable to beholde,  
The couenauntes were agreed vpon  
and eche theyr mynde had tolde.

¶ Unto



Alfagus and Archelaus:

**U**nto the other and anon  
when all thynges els was done,  
They hasted home where as the feast  
with great ioye was begonne:  
That daye they passed with much myght  
and sportes in sundye toyle,  
Ech man a sundye game and playe  
for pastyme dyd deuise:

**B**etweene Archelaus and the mayde  
such entertaynement grewe,  
That all men there had great delyte  
their louely lookes to vewe:  
Prayinge greatie Gods good gyfte  
syth Nature did agree,  
To gyue them beautie vertue and  
the arte of curtesye,

**W**hich were ryght excelēt in thes twayn  
excelling others farre,  
That in the Cytie of eche sorte  
before tymes wedded ware:  
What shall I say the daye was spent,  
and Phebus beames so bryght,  
Descended downe into the west  
where hidden was his lycht.

**T**he twynckling stars by wonted course  
appeared in the skye,  
And every man and woman laste,  
vnto their rest dyd hys:

The Wyfdomme of  
Archelaus and the mayden then  
acompanied with her kyn,  
were brought vnto theiꝝ chamber doore  
and as they entred in.

**C**Alfagus hydden in the wall  
tyght well did them beholde,  
And fearyng least he myght not speede,  
hys harte was very colde.  
But then Archelaus thynkyng on  
his friend Alfagus case,  
Drepyng how or by what meanes  
he myght come in his place.

**C**Dismissed all the foalke awaye  
and thankt them for theiꝝ payne,  
And sayd I woth my ladye nowe  
must tanke a worde or twayne:  
Gyue place to vs now at this tyme  
most hartely I pou praye,  
To morrow wyl we passe the tyme  
with more disport and playe.

**E**che one departed them anon  
no wyght was left behinde,  
But even Archelaus and the mayde,  
eche one to save theiꝝ mynde:  
Alfagus lyuyng still in hope,  
thought euery mynute a yeare,  
Archelaus carefull was also  
that Alfagus myght appeare.

How

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**W**hobest he with ardent loue  
Desired her to haue,  
Aboue all worldly treasures but  
his friendes lyfe then to saue:  
He had most ardent care of all  
saye mayde therfore sayd he,  
A little whyle I must departe  
I praye you tarrye me.

**A**nd made as though to ease him selfe  
vnto the stoole he went,  
He to Alfagus tooke his waye  
nought els was his intent:  
Alfagus ioyfull for to see  
his friende Archelaus cheare,  
Wythout delaye came forth anon  
all frustrate was his care.

**A**rchelaus stode in Alfagus place  
and Alfagus forth did go,  
Vnto the mayd the whych as then  
therof dyd nothyng kno:  
Now is Alfagus layd in the bed  
he made no longe delaye,  
The mayden knew not tohom he was  
and dyd him not denye.

**F**or whyr we thought nought els but  
Archelaus had ben there,  
But alfagus ioyfull was to see,  
that hee so well did fare:

He



The Hystorye of

These two young wedded foalkes therfor,  
no longer lye they may,  
for ech man bred faste to ryle  
so farre spent was the daye.

**A**rchelaus thought it toas most meete  
for to disclole his mynde,  
whyle all his kynred theu were there  
no better tyme to synde:  
Alfagus his deare freind therfore  
he vnto hym dyd rauill,  
And placed him within the myddest  
among his kyndeg foalke all.

**A**nd all the nobles that dyd dwell  
in Carthage was theare  
To whom Archelaus reuerence shewed  
desyrng thein full fapre:  
To gyue attentrue eare a whyle  
that Alfagus myght discus,  
A secreat thyng Archelaus sayd  
which hee will saye to vs.

Who bepng placed in his towne  
amongest the myddest of all,  
Declared forth such woordes to them  
as after follow shall.

**T**he Oracion which Alfagus made  
before the freindes of Archelaus,  
openynge vnto them the  
hole matter.

Cap. vi.

¶

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**W**here freindes & nobles of Carthage  
this day amongst you all,  
An insample is shewed vncredible  
which lately did befall:  
Which doth describe the deuyne power  
of honorable loue,  
Whose forcyng darte with deadly stroke  
excelleth all aboue.

**T**his loue hath brought perpetuall fame  
and eke great commendacion,  
Vnto this Cite and also  
vnto the Grecians nation:  
Wherefore you ought ryght excellentlye  
greate comforte for to take,  
And giue due thanks to God the which  
this ardent loue did make.

**I**f that amonge you there remaine  
such auncient wyse report,  
As had your noble progenytours  
which weare of the lyke sorte:  
For what more prayse may be to men  
that on the earth do dwell,  
Then faythfullnes, Beneuolence, and con-  
whose vertues doth excell. (Cancie

**F**or lacke wherof all countreyes and  
all Cities do decaye,  
Vnto desolacion and ruen eke  
they runne without delaye.

G.ii.

Lyke

**The Visitation**

Like as by them also they come  
to great and high prosperitie,  
With high estate and much renowne  
of Prudence and selfe-tyte.

**W**hat shall I longe delaye the tyme  
or tary in the thyng,  
Coniectyng myne intent and not  
to tell my hole meanyng:  
you knowe ryght wel ech one of you  
from whence I came and howe,  
Unto this tyme I was sent  
to hearas I am even now.

**A**nd by adventure I did fynde  
the house of Dympos here,  
who of longe tyme a very frende,  
he was to me most deare:  
His sonne Archelaus theare I found  
of myne owne age and state,  
who in all thynges was lyke to me  
byn chole I for my mate.

**W**e were so lyke in every thyng  
the one unto the other,  
That wee coulde not be serued be  
of father nor of mother:  
But onlye that we woulde our selues  
tell one anothers name,  
Unto our parentes and also  
to others shew the same.

**So**



Alagus and Archelaus

**C**So that at length about our neckes,  
spike laces they dyd tye,  
Of sundrye collours that they myght  
deserne by that waye  
What mutuall love and agrement  
hath byn betwene us twayne  
This eyght yeres alwayes since I came  
with Olimpus to remaine.

**E**You all be witneses that haue byn  
beholders of the thyng,  
To se our sweete conuersion you  
haue alwayes byn wondryng:  
And also our consent of mynde  
in luste and apetyte,  
you neuer sawe dyscorde, nor once  
wherin we dyd barre:

**A**nd as for my parte after that  
my father was decesed,  
Not withstanding that to mee  
abundantly ther happened:  
Great possessions and houses fayre  
with ryches eke innumerable,  
And proffers of hye dignitie  
wyth Ladys fayre and amiable.

**M**y frendes and allys eke also  
they letters to mee sente,  
Despyng me importunately  
to doo as they haue mented:

**The Hystorye of**

**In comyng home for to receyue  
myne erptage due to me,  
yea them which in the Senat now  
of all most auncient be.**

**Offered me aduancement hye  
in dignitie to raygne,  
Amongest those which the publycke welth  
doth seeke for to mayntayne,  
I wyll not now remember of  
the lamentacions great,  
Which my most naturall mother made  
me homwarde to intreat,**

**Expressyng with most tenced woozdes  
in letters to me sent,  
All blotted wyth teares & which on them  
abundantly were spent:  
Wher in she dyd accuse me sore  
because I did delaye,  
The tyme so long and vnto her  
not seeke to come awaye.**

**Sayeng that I am much unkynde  
lyth nature would agree,  
Specially now in her most neede  
her comforte for to bee:  
But yet all this within my harte  
could not at all pcease,  
Ne to remoue Archelaus from  
but so the breadch of my naple.**

**And**

Alfagus and Archelans.

**A**nd but that force doth me constrayne  
by nature so prouided,  
**I** coulde noz may not be withdrauone  
for anye thyng contrayned:  
Once from his company most sweete  
and pleasaunt vnto mee,  
**I** slepte with his most gentle harte  
he doth therto agree.

**I** chulynge rather for to lyue  
wth hym by fatall doome,  
His felow and companion to be  
then counseler of Roome:  
for which my kynd nes hath byn well  
aquitted nowe this daye,  
Or els redoubled by his helpe  
if **I** the troth do sape.

**D**elyuering mee frome cruell death  
wherto **I** was so nye,  
That of all deathes **I** should haue dyed  
a death most cruelly:  
And so Lachesus woulde haue spinne  
my fatall thred in payne,  
My pleasant yeares and youthfull dayes  
the fytell yearth woulde gayne.

**I** do perceaue you wonder much  
ye noble Athenes now  
To heare of this and of a trouth  
no maruell is for how



**The Person of**

**O** what is he so bolde of harte  
that durst attempte with Tre,  
To satisfy his cruell mynde  
w<sup>th</sup> deatly for to conspire

**B**ring a Romayne and decence  
of tyall Romaynes blood,

**O** who els thynke you would be so  
malicious, or so wood:

**T**o say mer wholn you all do know  
hath done no villanye,

**T**o any man or woman which  
doth dwell within this Cytie.

**Y**ou all shall be my iudge therein  
if that it be not so,

**F**or if I should impute my selfe  
you myght well therof know:

**F**or in rent syghtes I haue byn still  
synce to this Cytie I,

**C**ame fyrst, and in Olimpus house  
appoynted was to lye.

**N**ay nay my freyndes there is no man  
that I herein accuse,

**B**efore you all my frendes here  
no such talke will I vse:

**I** do perceaue you listen still  
and woulde desyre to know,

**W**hat man he was that dyd presume  
or seeke to vse mee so.

**With**

**Alfagus and Archelaus.**

**W**ith cruell deede and great dysppte  
my lye frome mee to take,  
**O** in lyke sort to do this facte  
such enterpryse dyd make  
**I**t was loue, o Carthagines,  
euen that same loue I saye,  
**W**hich as your Poettes doth declare  
hath wounded many a waye.

**T**he cheifest parte of all the Godys  
to whom ye honour gye,  
**T**he whylst they were on earth, & here  
lyke earthly men dyd lye:  
**T**hys loue constrained Iupiter  
to swyn as doth a Swan,  
**A**nd be transfozmed lyke a Bull  
to hyde his shape of man.

**H**ercules eke the banquysher  
of monstres great and stronge,  
**L**yons feare and Gyantes huge  
wth bodys large and long:  
**T**he same loue caused hym by force  
vppon a Rocke to spyn,  
**S**ittynge amonged the maydens clad  
in womans clothynge in.

**T**he same loue also which did cause  
the Prynces fete and route,  
**O**f Greeke and eke all Asya to  
assemble in a route:  
**H. i.**      **Encampynge**

The Picture of a Maid

Encamping in the foldes of Troy  
wyth many a cruell fight,  
And many a storme and tempest they  
did lastaye day and nyght.

**T**he same lorne I do say agaynst  
whose ferce assaults to stryue,  
May no resistance be at all,  
that reason can contriue,  
Hath wounded me so suddenly  
and brooke my hart so sore,  
That remedies I should haue used  
no man could me restore.

**H**ad not Archelaus holpen me  
through his frendship incomparable,  
I should haue ended miserableness  
my woofull lyfe incurable:  
I see you do desyre to know,  
and sayne would haue me tell,  
Whom, where, and what he is, that I  
haue chosen to loue so well.

**O**noble Carthages in this  
no longer will I staye,  
But openly declare it now  
to you wythout delay:  
It is Andromagus the Ladye sayre,  
the which Archelaus chose,  
To be his wife till destiny did  
they fatal threddes vnlose.

**Whom**



**Alfagus and Archeians,**

**W**hom he did loue most intylike  
but when his gentle harte,  
perceaued loue had strouken me  
even with her forsyngge darre  
And that my loue was set as then  
moze higher in degree,  
Then his and that I forced was  
to loue then his Lady.

**A**nd that it neuer dyd proleede  
of wanton lust nor wyl,  
Neither it of conuersation longe  
wherby to taulke our selfe:  
Corrupt desyre or fantasie  
he saw no way did beare,  
But with the onlie sight of her  
so taken in the snare.  
That I immediatlie was strouke  
with most incurable care.

**D**esyring all that ever I myght,  
death to dyspathe my dayes,  
Pronokynge therto all I could  
by sundry kynde of wayes:  
But he then by his wisdom soone  
perceiued well the thyng,  
As I doubt not but that ye do  
by this my tale tellyng.

**T**hat by predestinacion thee  
of God was geuen to mee,  
And not to him but that thee should

**The hystorie of**

my onely Lady. bee:  
Wherto be geuyng place as one  
both faythfull wyfe and luste,  
Esteemynge more our freyndshipp then  
a womans lone and luste.

**W**herto he was endrased more  
by his freyndes wyll and made.  
Then by the violence of Cupids darte  
constrayned after kynde:  
Wherfore ryght wyllingly to mee  
his interest he dyd geue.  
The whych he to the damsell had  
that so his freynd myght lye,

**A**nd it is I (Alfagus) truly  
which did the mayden wed,  
I put a Rynge her finger vppon,  
and went with her to bed:  
Of shamefastnes her Gyde then  
sooethwith I did vntape,  
By her I haue lyne all this nyght  
what would you haue me saye.

**I** haue confirmed matrymonye  
and made her now a wyfe,  
She is myne owne and I am hers  
whyle God shall lende vs lyfe:  
At these wordes they whych present were  
began to murmure fast,  
And on Archelaus daynully  
full geenouls lookes did cast.

**Then**

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**T**hen Alfagus spake agayne and sayd  
why looke you on him so,  
Leaue of your grudgng countenaunces  
and menassnges which you shoo:  
Towardes my freind Archelaus for  
he hath done to you all,  
Great honour and no deede to herby  
reproch to hym should fall.

**T**ell you he accomplisht hath  
the hole partes of aspend,  
And that loue which was most certayne  
he hath done to the end:  
He knew in Aspycke he myght fynde  
a nother Ladye byght,  
As saye and eke as ryche as shee  
in whom he myght delyght.

**A**nd one in whom perchaunce he might  
haue better consolacion,  
Then to this whom he dyd not fynde  
agree with contentacion:  
But such a freend as I was hee  
haupng respect and mynde,  
Unto our synplende and she  
our longe approued bynde.

**A**lso of my condycion and  
estate hee was sure,  
Neuer for to fynde the lyke  
while his lyfe did indure:

H.iii.

**A**lso



The Hyſtoꝛye of  
Also the Damsell suffereth no  
disparagement in her blood,  
Nor hinderaunce in her marriage but  
hath one as ryche in good.

¶ And rather is aduanced more  
to dignitie by mee,  
But to my friend Archelaus would  
I, no disprayle should bee:  
Consider noble Lordes also  
that I did not her take,  
Whyp rather lpyng when therein  
ye myght suppression make,

¶ That as well her great ryches as  
her beautye did alare,  
We for to take her for my wyfe  
and so my harte procure:  
But now my father is diseased  
in her I take delyghe,  
And toyne my selfe with faithfull loue  
to be hers daye and nyght.

¶ When I do farre excede her in  
possellpings and also,  
My substance farre surmounteth hers  
as you ryght well do know:  
When the most noble men of Roome  
and eke of Italie,  
Desired in my felowship  
to keepe mee companie.

¶ Pe

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**W**e haue great cause therfore to thanke  
Archelaus of this thyng,  
And as you ought of ryght you should  
in him haue reioysyng:  
And not to cast such angre looks  
extollynge so thereby.  
This byndnes shewd vnto mee,  
by hym wrought wonderfullpe.

**W**herby of mee and all my blood  
such freindshipp hath he wonne  
That neuer better frendes myght be  
spence sith the world begonne  
And to your Citie shew me  
such hap now may you haue.  
That from your foes through any wayde,  
ryght well wee shall you saue.

**T**he which thyng well considered you  
myght for Archelaus sake,  
In lyknes of hym with fine gould  
a comlye picture make:  
And in the chiefe place of all  
your Citie let it stonde,  
Vpon a Wyllow that all men  
which dwelleth in the land.

**M**ay haue in mynde our freindshipp great  
that is incomparable,  
And how vnto this Citie there  
may benefyts come innumerable:

But

**The Wyfdom of**

**But if that this perswasion maye  
not can not satisfie,  
your apetyte but that ye wyll  
imagen now therby.**

**¶ Any thyng to the damage of  
Archelans myfcednd so dere,  
When that I am departed hence  
lraurng hym wyth you here:  
To God the creator of all thynges,  
my bow here I do make,  
That as I shall haue knowledge therof  
in all hall for his sake.**

**¶ Whether I shall resort and byng  
thyndufible powre of Roome,  
Reuengng hym agaynst his foes  
wyth fuch a cruell doome:  
That all Wrycke therof shall reporte  
and fpeake perpetuall shame,  
Unto theyr owne reproche and eke  
dylhonour of theyr name.**

**¶ And therewithall Alfagus and  
Archelans goodde bypght,  
But all the other that was theate  
of Alfagus flood in flyght,  
Dyffemblyng all theyr mallyce and  
made feemabelly their cheate,  
As they contented in all thynges  
to Alfagus mypght appraie,**

**¶ Alfagus**



**Alfagus and Archelaus.**

**A**lfagus is sent for to Rome. Archelaus is ban-  
nished his countrey by his kynndred. After  
Alfagus departyng hee is sayne to beg  
hys bread, and so poozelye com-  
meth to Rome, to seeke Al-  
fus, he thinketh him selfe  
dispyssed & entreteth in  
to a Barne, lamer  
tyng his fortune.  
Cap. vii.

**S**Done after thys by aforce of  
the Senate and people of Rome,  
Alfagus sent for was that he  
without delay myght come:  
Home to theyr Citie and receaue  
his fathers dignitie,  
Which sayng needes he must obave  
did graunt them willinglye.

**A**ppoyntyng them a daye when he  
wthout faile woulde be theare  
How be it for Archelaus his  
dere freinde he tooke much care:  
And sayd my lousyng freind most dere  
ryght sorfull shoulde I bee,  
If that you would forsake this place  
and go to Rome with mee.

**T**he one halfe of my landes and of  
my goodes I will you grue,  
Both vnto you and to your heires  
so long as th. y. shall lyue,

**The Histories of**

**In feloship shal we wpll remaine  
till dasteny doth decay,  
Lachelus for to spinne her threed  
our fatall lyfe to stay.**

**¶ But then Archelaus had in mynde  
consydering therewithall,  
How necessarie his counsell myght bee  
what thing so myght befall:  
Unto the Citie of Carthage  
by many sundry wayes,  
Remembryng that his familie  
theat lyued manie dayes.**

**¶ And howe his bounden duetie was  
the Citie to maintayne,  
And for the common welth to seeke  
some prophete or some gayne:  
Wherfore his freind Alfagus hee  
desyred to be still,  
For I (quoth he) may not depart  
howe be it with ardent will.**

**¶ I do desyre your companie more  
then anye earthlye wight,  
Great greefe it will be vnto mee  
when I forgo your sight:  
Alfagus then perceauing that  
no reason it should bee,  
His freind Archelaus should depart  
out of his owne countree.**

**¶ Con**

**Alfagus and Archelaus.**

**C**onsidering how his counsell myght  
the Title well byholde,  
As other sage and wise men dyd  
in aunient tyme of olde:  
And that by nature bound he was  
his countreys welth to seeke,  
No more he woulde perswade him then  
but sayd with woozdes meeke.

**F**arewell my most deare freind for now  
frome you I must depart,  
farewell my louyng mate in whom  
I alwayes set my harte:  
Although in person I be gone  
yet haue mee still in mynde,  
If euer of me you stande in neede  
a sure freind shall you fynde.

**A**rchelaus kyssed Alfagus then  
whome he loued as his lyfe,  
He kyssed eke the Ladye sayre  
whiche shoulde haue ben his wyfe:  
So ech one now departed is  
and Alfagus tooke his waye,  
Towardes Roome and with him rode  
his Ladie frewe and gay.

**W**hen at their comyng with great ioy  
Alfagus mother then,  
Receaued was and vnto her  
most welcome of all men:

**I. ii.**

**Wher**



The Hystorye of  
Where as he dwelled all in myght  
and great felicity,  
Recreaung many chylidren by  
Andronicus his Ladye.

And for his wisdom and learyng he  
so highly was esteemed,  
That no hygh office was but that  
with honour he atchiued:  
And in the noble Citty of Rome  
much dignitie dyd beare,  
Recreaung loue and prayse of all  
the people that were there.

But now let vs retourne agayne  
where as we were before,  
And of the spytefull kyndred of  
Archelaus speake we more:  
And of the Laddes freyndes also  
whose malyce dyd remaine,  
With secret hatred in ther harte  
Archelaus to dysdayne.

So that soone after Alagus had  
to Rome wardes tooke his way,  
Malysiously with shamefull wordes  
they vexe hym day by day:  
And biterly abhorred hym  
for that he dyd dyspyle,  
To take so fytt a mate (they sayde)  
so ryche and eke so wyse.

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**I**n whom he might haue took his payne  
but that he dyd dyspayne,

The frenship which to him they shewed  
excepting not their paynes aid

But leauyng her to Alfagus whole

for him they dyd prouide,

Repayyng hym in a merciful

with vnbende wordes bespide,

**A**nd all that ever they could deuise  
by hym to do or saue,

Whyspouly they sought it out  
and that without delaye:

Firste they dyd exclude hym from  
theyr counsell and also,

Not thynkyng that to be ynough  
so lyght to let hym go.

**B**ut dyd prouyde from hym then  
all honest compaignes,

And yet not haupng therworthall  
their mynde to satisfie:

Finally aduudged hym

not worthy for to haue

Anys of the possessions which

hys father to hym gaue.

**N**eyther yet any of the goods,

which his parentes dyd leane,

Behynde them at theyr death to him

as theyr gilt did bequeath:

I.iii.

Whom

**The Byfalle of**  
**Whom he as they fupposed did**  
**unnaturally to fayne,**  
**A frendfhip vndifcreet and fo**  
**his parentage dysdayne.**

**¶** **Wherfore they did difpoyle him cleane**  
**of all that euer he had,**  
**And tooke the rayment from his backe**  
**wherwith he then was clad:**  
**And almost naked lyke a man**  
**whom fortune did difpyle,**  
**Out of the Citie expulced hym**  
**in the moft cruellest wife.**

**¶** **Thus is Archelaus lately one**  
**moft welthyft in the Citie,**  
**Difpoyled of all that euer he had**  
**no man on him taketh pttie:**  
**One of the nobleft in Carthage**  
**in dignitie he did raygne,**  
**And now of euerp woman and man**  
**is had in great difdayne.**

**¶** **Foz his kynde harte thus with difpyle**  
**he banifhed is foz aye.**  
**And his owne countrey wher he myght**  
**haue lyued alfo with ioy:**  
**And as a man difmayed and toft,**  
**by fortune to and fro,**  
**He waageth by and downe and hath**  
**no freind vis greifs to fhoe.**

**¶ And**



**Alfagus and Archelaus.**

**A**nd no man coulde be fonde that woulde  
him ayed in his distresse,  
But wandzed by and downe alone  
in extreams wretchednesse.  
Wlas (gouth he) what shall I do  
in miserie thus remayne,  
O fortune why thus cruellie  
hast thou me in disdayne.

**A**lfagus my freind is now in toye,  
he hath the mayden saye,  
And for his sake I do remayne,  
opprest with sorow and care.  
If unto hym this thyng were coulde  
ryght sure I am that hee,  
woulde haue great sorow & care for this  
my payne and miserie.

**H**e would reuenge me of my foes  
if ouce he might heare tell,  
How for his sake disdaynfaillie  
they dōd me thus expell.  
I will nomore therfore delaye,  
my hapys hap to sho,  
But spredde all that enee I can  
to Roome warbes will I go.

**A**nd unto Alfagus my deare freind  
declare my holie state,  
And how my foes with me haue dealt  
most cruellie now of late.

**Archelaus**

**The Historye of**

**Archelaus therefore took his waye  
so fast as he myght be,  
Towardes Roome and all alone,  
withouten compaigne.**

**¶ He travayleth day by day and is  
disdarned of every myght,  
Sustayning hunger in the day  
and leth coide all the nyght:  
To begge for meate and drynke then he  
was forced to proceed,  
for whyle he myght no more delaye  
hys hungrye Guttes to feede.**

**¶ And often when he came in place  
where other Dalimers were,  
He was not knowne and therefore they  
on him did take no care:  
He could not do as others dyd  
with many wordes to craue,  
And therefore often went without  
when other almes should have.**

**¶ Wherby he dyd oft tymes sustayne,  
great hunger payne and greefe,  
And no helpe coulde he have at all  
but teares for his releefe:  
Thus many a winter daye he wente  
or that he could attayne,  
To come to Roome, but at the lengthe  
throughy travelling longe with payne.**

**¶ Unto**

**Alfagus and Archelans.**

**¶** Unto the Citie is he come  
in hope to haue helpe,  
And sayd if Alfagus I may fynde  
now gone is all my grefe:  
for Alfagus house of every man  
full fast inquireth he,  
And at the length is come wheras  
ryght well he may it see.

**¶** But then beholding it so faire  
so large and eke so ampyble,  
So princely buyled and also  
in all thynges so delectable:  
He was ashamed to approche  
or nigh the gates to stand,  
He thought it would awaile him nought  
yf that he tooke in hande.

**¶** To seeke Alfagus sith that he  
was clad in such arape,  
In which full poozelp he had gone  
and traueled nyght and daye:  
Wherfore to carry thear besydes  
he held it for the best,  
And so he set him downe a while  
his weerde lymmes to rest.

**¶** And sayd if fortune so proude  
that Alfagus come this way,  
I will present my selfe to him  
to heare what he will saye:



The Visage of

I knowe ryght well he knoweth me  
my face when he dooth see,  
Therefore if fortune wouide do so  
ryght ioyfull shoulde I bee.

Archelaus being in this thought  
and as he dyd deuyse,  
Alfagus and his Ladie bee  
within his gate espye:  
Who issuing out immediatly  
for theyr dyspoyte and playe,  
Imounted in moste pleasaunt toyle  
vppon theyr balstapes gape.

And rydynge thus for theyr solace  
Archelaus did beholde,  
But seing hym clad with such araye  
all ragged in euery folde:  
So hyle and splyth to theyr sight  
his rayment did appeere,  
That no regarde they had to hym  
he did behoulde his cheere.

And so dyd passe forth on their waye  
not knowinge whom it was,  
The which within Archelaus harte  
such cares did bringe to passe:  
That sure Alfagus he did thinke  
his fortune had contemned:  
That beinge opprest with mortall cares  
and beguines longe defended.

Done

**Alfagus and Archelans,**

**C** Done in a sound he fell, for why  
no longer might he stand,  
But one amongst them which stode by  
did take hym by the hand:  
And wpth the helpe of others there  
reupued him agayne,  
Thynkpng that he had bin sycke  
not knowyng hys carefull payne.

**A**nd when he to him selfe was come  
he made no longe delay,  
But forthwith did depart and from  
the Citty tooke hys waye:  
Intendpng to abyde nomore,  
with Alfagus for to tauke,  
But as a wild beast wander about  
thorow all the world to walke.

**B**ut for to rest his wearye lynnes  
then force did him constrayne,  
Within an old barne for to go  
that there he myght complayne:  
His cruell fortune all alone  
the which place when he found,  
Without respect of death or lyfe  
he cast hym on the grounde,  
**A**nd weppng with most dolorous cryes  
his fortune dyd brwayne.

**O** thou Alfagus then quoth he  
why dost thou mee dysdayne  
O sayned frendship why so longe

The Wiffaye of  
hast thou dwelt with by twapne:  
Myne owne kynde harte hath caused thys  
alas why did I so,  
Why let I not that unkynde wretche  
haue dyed full longe ago.

Alfagus I had thought thou wouldest  
not haue ben so unkynde,  
To me, which of so many yeres  
hath ben thy lounge freinde:  
Alas my kynskolkes now I fynde  
your wordes to be full true,  
I would to god that I had byn  
aruled then by you.

Where is Alfagus thy kinde harte  
which thou wast wont to shewe,  
Where is thy sweete acquayntaunce whych  
betweene vs I did knowe:  
O cruell fortune why hast thou  
me thus farre in disdayne,  
you spsters thre by fatall doome  
why do you now restrapne

To stop my breath and send my soule  
where Lymbooges kingdoomes lye:  
On Limbo lake in Charons boate  
to take my destinye:  
I will no longer lyue quoth hee  
in this great wretchednes,  
But ryd this lelly Ghost of myne  
from payne and eke dystresse.

And



Alfagus and Archelans.

**A**nd therewithall his knyfe he dyet  
in poynt hym selfe to kill,  
But god so wrought agayn his mynde  
and forner wicked will:  
And by the knowledg which he had  
longe in philosophye,  
Consydering wpsely every thyng  
withstood that desenie.

**E**vet oft tymes would he take the knyfe  
hys fatal wound to make,  
But wpsdome did perswade him still  
hys folly to forsake:  
And on this wpsle within hym selfe  
alone contendynge still,  
With cruell cares and tormentes thus  
betwene wisdom and will.

**F**atigated with longe watche  
and iournyes great with all,  
As god would haue it in this wpsle  
on deadly sleepe dyd fall:  
His knyfe wherewith he dyd intende  
hym selfe as then to slaye,  
Fell downe hym by as hee on sleepe  
hys wery bones dyd lape.

l.iii.

**A** common.

The Hystorie of

A common robber hauynge slayne a man, entreteth  
into the Barne wheare *Archelaus* sleepeth. He  
taketh by the knife and putteth it in the deade mans  
wound, and layeth it agayne by *Archelaus* who  
beyng so founde is accused to dye. At laste  
he is knowen of *Alfagus* who taketh  
the fact vpon him to saue his fren-  
des lyfe, & offereth to dye.

Cap. viii.



He whilste he on thys wayes did lye  
as fortune dyd prouyde,  
A comon theefe or robber was  
a waytyng there besyde:

To do sum byllanous acte or dede  
on traueylers by the waye,  
Naught els his practyce was but so  
dyd lye both nyght and daye.

And by aduenture at that tyme  
a marchaunte traueplyng by,  
The foresayd theefe behynde a bushe  
dyd well his tyme espye:  
And sodenly the man he tooke  
who thought no harme ne ill,  
And not contented with his goods  
foorthwith he dyd hym kill.

Wherefore that he myght well eskape  
and not to be spied,  
In the barne where *Archelaus* laye  
full fast hym selfe he hied:

who

**Alfagus and Archelaus.**

**Who** when he entred was and on  
Archelaus dyd beholde,  
And that full faste on sleepe he laye  
as I before haue tolde.

**He** looked on hys face and sawe  
with cares hee was opprest,  
And that the sorowfull teares he shed  
all spynkeled had his brest:  
Ryght well he knewe a desperate man  
he was, and there did lye,  
With sorowfull syghes so brought on sleepe,  
to ease his myserie.

**This** man quoth he will serue right well  
to hyde my facte wth all,  
And then tooke vp the knyfe which from  
Archelaus hand dyd fall:  
Puttyng it in the wounde of hym  
wherch hee before dyd slaye,  
And in Archelaus hand it sette  
as there on sleepe he laye.

**So** then the theefe wth harte full glad  
departed wth all speede,  
And tydynes to the Cytie came  
of this his cruell deepe:  
Wherfore they serched dyligently  
in every hollow tree,  
And every place which they suspecte  
the theefe might hidde be.

**End**



**The Pytcheye of**

**A**t laste into the barne they came  
where as Archelaus was,  
Styll faste on sleepe he laye and thoughte  
no harme at all alas:  
Dooze innocent man vnto his lot  
this mang death nowe must fall,  
The searchers therfore buspitt  
to wake him they do call.

**W**ho from his sleepe when hee awooke  
to sygh he did not spare,  
And enteryng in most sorowfully  
to his accustomed care:  
Complaining of his fortune then  
as he had done before,  
With dolfull teares dysplyng from  
his eyes styll more and more.

**C**ursed be the tyme quoth he  
that euer I dyd knowe,  
That vnkynde wretch for wines sake now  
I suffer all this woo:  
But when the officers earnestlye  
vnto his charge did laye,  
The mang death which they found thereby  
and that he dyd him slaye.

**T**he knyfe a token is they sayde  
that lyes downe by the heere  
for all be blooddyed wth the wound  
to bitt doth appeere:

**Thou**

**Alfagus and Archelaus.**

**T**hou must needs suffer death therfore  
Dyspatche and come at once, (foote  
With ropes they bounde hym bande and  
which were brought for the nonce.

**H**e nothing dyd deny at all  
but what to hym they layde,  
Confessed that it was even so  
and helde him well apayed:  
That by so good lucke should escape  
his vyolent mynde and wyll  
When wylth his owne hands he did thinke  
his innocent blood to spyll.

**B**y lawe now shall I dye quoth hee  
ryght glad I am therfore,  
Good freindes make haste, dyspatche my  
that I may see no more: (dayes  
The lyght of Sonne ne yet of skye  
which on the earth doth shewe  
Theyr glysterng lyght & glad some heate  
on trees on earth belowe.

**T**he mournng feyldes by lymbo lake  
I woulde appoche to see,  
With those whom loue theye deathe dyd  
that place is best for mee: (force  
The officers marvelled greatly then  
to see hym so content,  
To take his death with speddy haste  
intreatyng as he went.

**L.**

**T**hat

The Hystorye of

**T**hat thay wolde not delaye the tyme  
wherfore was tolde anon,  
Unto the Senate with reporte  
the Deede of such a one:  
Who as you harde before was slayne  
and that in such a place,  
Was found a man in Carthage bozne  
suspected in that case.

**A**nd how they founde the blooddye knyfe  
in his hande beinge kylle,  
And that it seemed to be hee  
the whych the man dyd kylle:  
Wherfore forthwith they dyd commaunde  
to bynge him to the barre,  
Because that time in Judgement seate  
the counsell setten were.

**A**lfagus was chiefe counceller then  
oz in lyke Dignitie,  
Sytting in his rayall seate  
wyth great felicity:  
Archelaus then mooste unferable man  
vnto the barre was brought,  
With byls and slanes most lyke a theefe  
and innocent was of thought.

**O**f whom it was demaunded then  
if he the man dyd slaye,  
That was found dead as ye haue harde  
whych he dyd not denaye:

But



**Alfagus and Archelaus.**

But in moſte ſorowfull maner did  
his fortune curſe and ban,  
ſayeng he was in all the worlde  
the moſte vnforgunateſt man.

**C**omplerable wretche (quoth hee)  
what curſed ſtarre dyd raygne,  
When I my fatall thred of lyfe  
by nature did obtayne:  
I woulde to god Lachelys had  
my fatall thred vntayed,  
Before I knew that vnkynde wretche  
whych hath me now vpbayed.

**C**Thus ſpyghyng in his harte he ſayd  
but no man could eſpye,  
for whom he ſorrowed in ſuch ſorte  
in care and and myſery:  
At length one dyd deſaund of hym  
in what place he was bozne,  
And howe he traueyled had ſo farre  
with cotes ſo rent and tozne.

**I**n Carthage good ſpy he ſayde  
my mother dyd me barye,  
And in my yowthfull tyme and dayes  
full well I lyued thare:  
But fortune with her fatall wheele  
my good lucke dyd enuie,  
And therewith on Alfagus hee  
dyd caſte a ſorowfull eye.

**L.ii.**

**C**With

The Historie of

**W**ith indignacion much and brasse  
into great syghes wpth all,  
Wherby abundantly the teares  
downe from his eyes dwd fall:  
Whych when Alsagus did beholde  
espyeng eke also,  
I marke hypon his bysage whych  
of certayne hee did kno.

**I**t was Archelaus his deere freinde  
consydering therwpythall,  
That by some euill aduenture hee  
into that case dwd fall:  
Sodenly from his seate hee rose  
and kneeled on his knee,  
Before the iudges all and sayde  
my Lordes gyue eare to mee.

**T**his man my selfe I newe quoth he  
of olde rancour and hate,  
The which renewed was by vs  
of malyce now of late:  
This man is guiltlesse of the thyng  
he is a straunger here,  
For in the eyes of all men nowe  
ryght well it may appeere.

**T**hat he is desperate in his mynde  
and careth not for to dye,  
And to abyene his sorowes hee  
doth not the facte Denie:

Hee

**Alfagus and Archelaus.**

**He doth confesse the fact wherof  
he is moke innocent,  
And so to synnys his sorowfull dayes  
that is his hole intent.**

**¶ Wherfore the sentence gyne on mee  
accozdyng to my dedde:  
And haue accozdyng to the laboe  
some shamefull death with speede  
Archelaus then perceauyng that  
contrary to his expectatyon,  
his freind Alfagus did begin  
to make there such relacton.**

**¶ And how he offered for to dye  
some shamefull death; and so  
Delyuer hym from the death to whiche  
full lyke he was to go:  
He more importunatlye dyd crie  
for iudgement to be done,  
And that they would procede on hym  
lyke as they had begonne.**

**¶ For I am he withouten faule  
that dyd thys man dystroie,  
And as he walked by the waye  
withouten companie:  
I dyd suppose to haue of hym  
some Iuels ryche and sayre,  
And started so depnly from a bush  
before that hee was ware.**

**L.iii.**

**¶ Ceuynge**



The Wyfkye of

**C**euynge hym his deadly wound  
wherby I myght at ease,  
Serche hym well in every place  
to do even as I please:  
But when I had destroyed hym so,  
it dyd me not auayle,  
For there no ryches coude I fynde  
my purpose I dyd fayne.

**A**nd being then ryght sore in feare  
least any shoulde espye,  
This cruell deede that I had done  
full faste I dyd me hye:  
Into the barne where I was founde  
to reste me for a whyle,  
But I had watched longe before  
and sleepe did me begyle.

**S**o that before I was a ware  
full faste on sleepe I laye,  
And had the knyfe vyll in my hande  
the which that man dyd slaye:  
The officers will confesse it so  
I muste needes dye therfore,  
And thus he called for his death  
on them still more and more.

**A**lfagus dyd deny those wordes  
and sayde he dyd but fayne,  
He doth inuent these wordes quoth hee  
the man he hath not slayne:

for

Alfagus and Arthelans.

For if that he had done the dede  
hes would haue fled awaye,  
And not haue tarried in the place  
wher as he did him slaye.

¶ Sum other thyng was in hys mynde  
when he did drawe hys knyfe,  
By desperate minde perhappes he thought  
to haue ryd his owne lyfe:  
Is that a weapon lyke to fyght  
or kyll a man wyth all,  
No no my Lordes it is not so  
the knyfe is very small.

¶ And he is lyke a Dalmer pooze  
which beggeth by the waye,  
Not lyke a Kniffen you may see  
his coates are nothyng gay:  
It was euen I that slewe the man  
the cause I tolde before,  
Of olde hate which betweene vs was  
and kept so long in store.

¶ For as in that place all alone  
a huntynge I dyd ryde,  
By euell aduenture in the waye  
the man there I espyed:  
And thynkyng that no better tyme  
I myght auenged bee,  
But then when as we were alone  
and no man els to see.

¶ I dyd slewe

The Hystorie of

**E** drew my sworde without delaye  
and unto him I sayde,  
Thou by layne now to fynde the here  
I am ryght well sparde:  
And therewithall on hym I layd  
without respect or care,  
That sodenly his deadly wounde  
he had or I was ware.

**W**hich when I sawe out of the waye  
I drew hym by and by,  
I tooke my horse in all the haste  
and homwarde faste did flye:  
This thyng is true whych I haue sayde  
the lawe now let me haue,  
Why do ye deferre of so longe  
no man my lyfe maye saue.

**A**rchelaus sayd it was not so  
but he the man dyd slaye,  
Alfagus dyd withstand it tho  
and did hym sylly denaye:  
Thus argued they longe tyme for death  
who myght the other saue,  
Aboundantly they teares they shed  
with wysyng for theyr geane.

**W**herat the Senat and people all  
was wonderously abasht,  
Not knowing what the thyng might mean  
but stode full sore agast.

**C**The



**Alfagus and Archelaus.**

**T**he murtherer beinge mooued wyth pyttie de-  
clareth the trueth. *Alfagus* taketh *Archelaus*  
home to his house, much sojowful for his  
aduenture. The people reioyce &  
the trueth is knowen, and the  
murtherer is set at ly-  
bertie. Cap. ix.

**W**ho he which was þe theefe in deede  
and murthered had the man  
Dyd here this thinge in the ptease  
amonge the folke dyd stand:-  
Who then percepyng in his harte  
the marueplous great contencion,  
Of these two persons which was nought  
but of theyr owne inuencion.

**T**he knew they were full innocent  
in that which they dyd saye,  
yet one to saue the others lyfe  
would not the deede denye:  
And that it was proceeded of  
a freindship most incomparable,  
By ardent loue on both sydes set,  
so firme and eke vnnarable.

**M**ost beyniently prouoked he was  
the truth for to dysclose,  
So through the ptease he breaketh fast  
and to the harte he gose:  
Before the Senate and people all  
whereas without delaye,  
His voyce he lysted vp on hye  
and vnto them dyd saye.

¶.t.

**C**Reghe

The Hystorye of

**T**hyght noble fathers wyse and sage  
to you it is well knowen,  
That I am now and hath ben eke  
full many years a gone:  
A comon Baratoz and a theefe  
and eke is known to you,  
Alfagus is of noble bloode  
and of excellent vertue.

**A**pproued alwayes for a man  
both noble wyse and sage,  
Discended as you know thyght well  
of great and hygh lynage:  
And neuer towardes man nor wyse  
malycyous was his mynde,  
By any outward spgne at all  
that euer witt coulde fynde.

**T**his other stranger eke also  
doth seeme a man to be,  
Of sober lyfe haupng bys harte  
full of simplicitye:  
And that is more desperate of mynde  
for some great greuous payne,  
Whiche he hath taken in him selfe  
by fortunes frownyng brayne.

**A**nd euidently vnto your eyes  
thyght well it may appere,  
As also it doth vnto all  
the people that be here:

**Alfagus and Archelans.**

**H**onorable reverent fathers in this thyng  
my harte doth now telent,  
for unto you I do confesse  
these are both innocent.

**I** am the parson which dyd slaye,  
and murder eke the man,  
whych was found dead, now of late  
with colour pale and wan:  
I robbed hym of all his goulde  
and sylver every deale,  
As I was wonte with others moe  
when as I wente to steale.

**A**nd in the barne I entred then  
whych stood but there harde bye  
Thys straunger flat vppon the grounde  
full faste on slepe did lye:  
Hauyng by hym a naked knyfe  
wherewith the better to speede,  
I put it in the dead man's wounde  
to hyde my wycked deede.

**W**hich being all be rayed with blood  
I made no staye ne let,  
But to this straunger came agayne  
and in his hande it set:  
Which thyng when I had done I made  
no staye ne let at all,  
I hyed me fast awaye and thought,  
no harne coulde me befall.



The Wittowes of

**T**o this mans charge I knew rightwell  
all men the deepe woulde laye,  
And now I do perceiue right well  
he doth it not Denaye:  
But pitty so hath moued my harte  
that needes I must confesse,  
This facte to saue this innocent man  
and seeke myne owne dysstresse.

**T**hys was my whole deuyce in dedde  
your iudgement to withstande,  
But now I do commit my lyfe  
even here into your hande:  
Rather then this noble man  
Alfagus should be slayne,  
Or that this innocent strangers lyfe  
would ende with greife and payne.

**W**herat the Senate and people all  
such great comforte did take,  
That with the noyse of ioyfull hartes  
the whole court they dyd make  
Alfagus ran to Archelaus then  
and in his armes him caught,  
O my moste faythfull freind he sayd  
why hast thou me thus sought.

**O** why hath fortune delt with thee  
so cruelly in dyspette  
Why wouldst thou sende no worde to me  
to helpe thee in thy righte

How

Alfagus and Archelaus.

**H**ow could you to this Citie come  
and would not seeke for mee,  
Why did you thinke I woulde despyse  
you in your myserye.

**N**o, no, Archelaus in this woorde  
god let me neuer lye,  
If for your safegarde all my goodes  
and lyfe I woulde not grue:  
Declare to mee your grent myshap  
and how it came to passe,  
That you are brought to this distresse  
with carefull payne alas.

**A**nd therewithall drowne from hys eyes  
the salte teares fell so faste,  
That vnneath coude hee speake a woorde  
but if his harte should braste:  
Archelaus shed muche teares also  
for to see his freinde to see,  
Embracyng, kysyng and thankyng hym  
wyth great spedytie.

**A**nd sayd my louyng freinde to hen I  
vnto your house shall come,  
I will declare my whole estate  
to you both all and some:  
Throughe all the Citie published was  
this frendshipp moste incomperable,  
Of Alfagus and Archelaus which  
to them was most commendable.

¶.iii.

**A**nd

**The Hystorye of**

**A**nd so extolled and magnified them  
even all the realme throughout,  
That by the mouthes of every man  
theyr fame was spred about:  
Synally at the instance of  
Alfagus and also,  
The sute of all the people made  
vnto the Senate tho.

**T**he theefe was pardoned of his facte  
and freely sent awaye,  
With charge nomore to do the lyke  
to no man nyght nor daye:  
Alfagus Archelaus lead  
vnto his house anon,  
And ryche aparell on his backe  
he caused to do on.

**U**nto Andrynica of all men  
most welcome then was hee,  
Shée kyssed and embraced hym  
with much fayre curtelspe:  
And sayde my lounge freind most deare  
what spytefull foes did raygne,  
To brynge you in such myserye  
by force and great dysdayne.

**B**ut be you of good comfort syth  
God hath you hyther sent,  
And all the goodes shalbe as yours  
whych God to vs hath lent:




Alfagus and Archelaus.

yea quoth Alfagus with my harte  
I wold it should be so,  
If that ye wyl abyde woth mee  
and no moze homewardeg go.

¶ But Archelaus my deare freind  
sayne woulde I here you tell,  
The cause to hye from your countrey so  
your foes byd you expell.

¶ Archelaus shewethe Alfagus all his troubles  
and myserye, who sorowfully lamented his case.  
And having prynced a great Army, went  
with Archelaus to Carthage, where he  
slew and ponished all his foes, &  
settyng his freind in quyet  
rest, returneth againe  
to Roome,  
Cap. r.

 My dere freind Archelaus sayde  
I will to you declare,  
How that dyspptefully my foes  
oppressed me with care:  
When that your Ladys Andromeda  
and you departed was  
from Carthage where manye yeres  
in passyme we byd passe.

¶ Your Ladys kyn and myne also  
conspyred such dysdayne,  
That all the meanes & wayes they sought  
how that I myght be slayne:

But

The Hyſtoꝛye of

But when they coulde fynde nought that way  
to do mee ſuch outrage,  
They ſought another kinde of trade  
theyꝝ malice to aſwage.

And ſyke expelled me from the ſeate  
where counſell I dyd gye,  
But thinking that was not pꝛonghe  
ſo well to let me lye:  
Prophbetid from mee then  
all honeſt compaigne,  
And yet not being ſo content  
theyꝝ wyath to pacifye.

Adiudged me not worthy to  
enſoye my fathers lande,  
Ne nothyng els which as you know  
dyd fall into my hande:  
For why ſayd they he dooth diſdaine  
his fathers parentage,  
And will not bee aruled by  
our counſell wyſe and ſage.

But leaueſt of the Ladie whom  
for him with care we ſought,  
With whome he hath begyled vs  
Alſagus hath her cought:  
My goods and landes all that I had  
they tooke from me therfore,  
No not a garment for my backe  
they woulde to mee reſtore.

But

**B**ut almost naked lyke a man  
whome fortune dyd dyspse,  
They dzaue me from the Citie in  
the moste dyspytefull wyse:  
And no man coude I fynde that once  
woulde seeke my helpe or ayde,  
For those in whom I trusted moste  
hath cheisly me vpbayde.

**T**hen wandred I vp and downe w care  
and mysery soe opprest,  
To begge my bread constraynde I was  
no place I founde of rest:  
At length throught trauelyng long w paine  
I came thys Cytie to,  
And ioyfull was my harte as then  
in hope to speke with you.

**B**ut when I came your palce nye  
beholdynge it so gape,  
I was ashamed to approche  
and to my selfe did sape:  
I will abyde without the gates  
and tarrye for a space,  
Perhaps I shall or it be longe  
beholde by fortunes grace.

**M**y freinde Alfagus come this waye  
so then hee shall mee see,  
And as I was deuyng thus  
the best waye that myght bee:  
I did espre you come and eke  
your Ladye in your hande,

**A.**

**Whych**



Whych made my harte full glad, and I  
vppon my feete did stande.

¶ That so you myght beholde me as  
ye passed by the waye,  
But as you passed by and sawe  
me clad in such raire:  
No mynde on mee ye had at all  
whych made mee to surmyle,  
That for my poore estate I had  
you dyd me now dyspyse.

¶ And in a sounde for care I fell  
opprest wyth mortall woo,  
But being then repyned agayne  
I thought forthwyth to go:  
Moste lyke a beast about the world  
to wander by and dolewe,  
And drewe my knyfe to slaye my selfe  
wher as nowe I was founde.

¶ But god withstood that cruell deede  
so I on sleepe dyd fall,  
And helde the knyfe styll whych I thought  
to slaye my selfe with all.  
O freynd Archelaus, Alagus sayde  
my harte may not endure,  
To heare the wofull state you had  
my death it wyll procure.

¶ I am the cheifest cause of thys  
alas why dyd I so,  
O spytefull eyes, where was your syght  
when

when as you could not know  
My deere freinde standynge in the waye  
in hope to haue releefe,  
Alas, alas, vnto my harte  
how terribble is the greefe.

¶ But when Archelaus sawe hys freinde  
Alfagus to relent,  
And inwardly with doulfull teares  
his necligence repente:  
Moste loungefly embraced hym,  
and sayde my freynde be still,  
Leaue of your sorowfull syghes ye make  
your bysage for to spell.

¶ The thyngs which nowe are past & gone  
no man may call agayne,  
Why harte you now your selfe therfore  
and weepe with greuous paynes:  
I knowe ryght well no faulte in you  
in this thyng was at all,  
But my owne necligence causeth mooste  
of this vnluckye fall.

¶ For if my wyt had byn so good  
when as you paste me bye,  
To haue declared what I was  
and eke my myserie:  
I had not felte the halfe of this  
whych now I byd sustayne,  
But syth the thyng is passe of it  
to talke it is but bayne.

P.ii.

¶ App

**M**y freind Archelaus Alfagus sayde  
to god gyue prayse alwaye,  
Who hath you helped in your cares  
vnto this present daye?  
And looke what thyng there lyeth in mee  
demaunde and you shall haue,  
My lyfe and goods I will not spare  
you my freinde for to saue.

**I**f that you wyll abyde in Roome  
and dwell here wyll with mee,  
My house, my goods, my landes and all  
even as your owne shall bee:  
In felowshyp we will remayne  
as longe we wonted were,  
To ryde and go both daye and nyght  
for you I will not spare.

**M**y leuyng freind Archelaus sayde  
I thanke you hartelye,  
for this your kyndnes to me shewed  
of my parte vnworthye:  
But I intende to go agayne  
my countrey to beholde,  
If of your helpe and ayde therein  
to craue I myght be bolde.

**A**ll that is myne Alfagus sayde  
as I haue tolde before,  
ye may comaunde now at this tyme  
and shall do euer more:  
And sith it is your mynde to go  
into your owne countrey,



you shall haue all the ayde and helpe  
that can be made by mee.

**I**n haste I will prouide therfore  
an Armye feare and stoute,  
Whom I to Carthage wyll conducte  
to hunte those rebells oute:  
Not one of them there shall escape  
vnpowred for the tyme,  
So that all Carthage rounde aboute  
of theyr desarte shall ringe.

**T**he Senate by authoritie then  
theyr Romaine Hoste dyd call,  
And twenty thousand men in raze  
they set both stronge and tall,  
Whych were on horsebacke paynted well  
for to resiste their foe,  
And eke as many foote men stood  
in redynes to goe.

**A**llagus tooke his leaue then of  
Andromyca his Ladye,  
And Archelaus he dyd conducte  
strayght into Carthage:  
Where as by force of powre he slew  
and powred those that he,  
Myght here or learne by any meane  
Archelaus foes to be.

**A**nd those also which dyd dysdayne  
to helpe him in his neede,  
Allagus powred sundry wyse

*A. iii.*

*acordyng*

accordynge to theyr meede:  
And set hys freind Archelaus cheefe  
in dygnitye to raigne,  
Aboue those which in Carthagre  
the Citie dyd mayntayne.

Restoynge to hym all the lande  
and goods he had before,  
Augmented by the death of them  
which hated hym before:  
Now when Alfagus had Done thys  
and set in quyet peace,  
Hys deere freinde Archelaus whom  
wyth goods he did increase.

He made the Senatours all to sweare  
obedynce for to geue,  
To his frende Archelaus whylste  
he theare on earth dyd lyue:  
And no man for to be so bouldre  
hys counsell to dyspse,  
But take hym as he is, a man  
both noble sage and wyse.

Thys done and all thynge set at reste  
the beste waye that myght bee,  
He sayde freynd Archelaus now  
come take your leave of mee:  
For I must needes to Roome agayne  
myne armie to conuaye,  
And you I shall not see no more  
agayne thys many a daye.

Freind Alfagus Archelaus sayde

great kyndnes you haue shewed,  
On mee, and I may thynke my loue  
on you right well bestowed:  
I gyue you hartp thanks therfore  
no better mendes I make,  
But looke what lyeth in me to do  
I am redye for your sake.

CSease of those wordes Alagus sayde  
my lounge freinde moste dere,  
And better then your selfe let mee  
not to your eyes appeare:  
for thankynge mee in thys my payne  
now taken for your sake,  
Is nothyng but as vnto you  
a synpleture I shall make.

CWhich is euen as though my left hande  
my ryght hand thanks shoulde gyue,  
for sekynge helpe when it was hurte  
the wounde for to reloue.  
Wee are as one you knowe ryght well  
and euer more will bee,  
And looke what anye man doth for you  
he doth it eke for me.

CFor if one member the bodye to ayde  
doth seeke with all indener,  
To finde some redye for to heale  
and cure hys payne for euer:  
Doth he ought but his duty then  
euen so my freynde haue I,  
And still do whyle my life doth last  
though for you I shoulde dye.



**I**n deede quoth Archelaus then  
of ryght it shoulde be so,  
And syth it is your mynde so soone  
to Roome wardes ye will go:  
The gods conduct you on your waye  
accozdynge to your mynde,  
And sende you quyet passage that  
no daunger you may fynde.

**C**ommend me to your Ladye saye  
and thus I take my leaue,  
With that he caste his armes abrode  
hys freinde for to receaue:  
He kyssed him sweetlye then and sayde  
farewell my hartes delpyght,  
farewell my louyng frende on whom  
I thynke both daye and nyght.

**A**lfagus kyssed hym also  
with the lpe salutacyon,  
And saide the hoste is redy, I haue  
no longer delyberacion:  
But must nedes now departe from you  
the Gods ye helpe and guyde  
And ther with all amongst the route  
vppon hys horse dyd ryde.

**W**ho in short space to Rome was brought  
with great magnyfycpe,  
And was receyued iopouly of  
Andromyca his Lady.

**F**inis. q. C. Jemynges.

